

# Solving Problems

How do you solve problems? What should you do to make a mature decision?

## The Decision-Making Process

1. Define the problem.

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2. Consider all options and solutions.

3. For each option, make a chart of its pros and cons.

Pros	Cons

4. Study your chart; make a decision.

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## Pros and Cons

1. What are the consequences or results of each pro? each con?

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2. How will these affect you now? a year from now?

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3. How will these affect your relationship with God? with others involved in the problem? with your parents? your friends?

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4. How would this decision express your values and beliefs—what you know is right or wrong?

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## Other Factors to Consider

1. Pray for guidance and understanding.
2. Go to adults or others who can advise you.
3. Read and study; get all the information you need to make your decision.
4. Give yourself time; avoid making a hasty decision.
5. Be ready and willing to accept the consequences of your decision.

# Two Problems

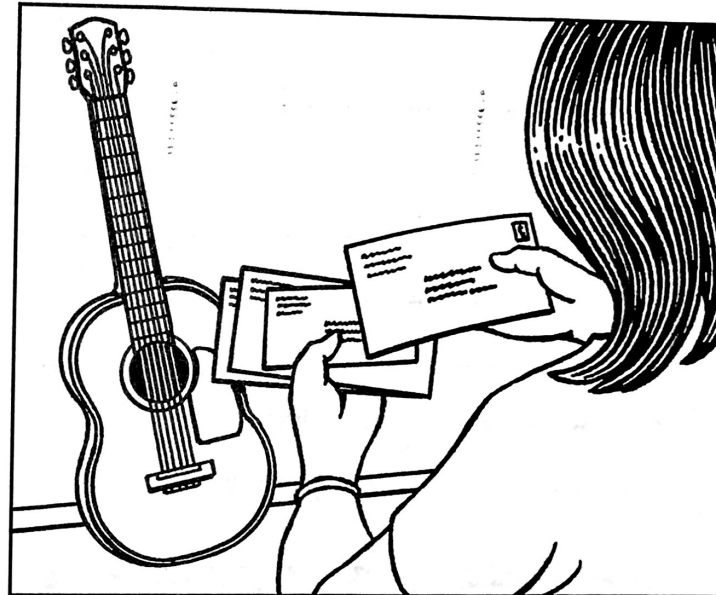
Try solving these problems.

1. Jenny and her older brother Andrew had always been close. They both were active and had many friends.

Soon after school began in the fall, Andrew began to change. He was hanging around with a different crowd. He dropped out of sports, his grades went down, and he always seemed nervous. Jenny and her mother noticed the change. When Andrew's mother tried to talk to him about it, he became upset. He told her nothing was wrong and that she was just being nosy. Andrew spent more and more time alone in his room. One day Jenny found Andrew alone and asked him what was the matter. Andrew began to cry and told her he was on drugs. All of his friends were on them, so he had decided to try them. They made him feel good for a while but after that, he felt sick and depressed until he had some more. Andrew told Jenny he was going to stop taking them as soon as he could, and he made Jenny promise not to tell anyone, especially their mother.

The next day Jenny's mother told her she was worried about Andrew. "I'm afraid Andrew is in trouble and needs help. Jenny, I know you are close to your brother. If you know what's wrong, please tell me."

**What should Jenny do?**



2. Lupe always had to work hard in school. She did her own work and would never cheat. She had many duties at home, so she had to use her time well.

This year her parents finally let her take guitar lessons after school. It was hard for Lupe to keep up with her schoolwork along with the lessons. Besides that, the group of students she walked home with after the lessons would stop in the stores along the way and steal small items.

The principal had heard of the problems they were causing and called the group into the office. Lupe and the others were told that they were all suspected of stealing and that a letter was being sent to their parents about it. The letter said that if any more reports came in about the stealing, the students would be suspended. Lupe knew she was not guilty, but she did not know if her parents would believe her, especially if they received a letter from the principal about it. Lupe checked the mail every day.

On Friday, the letter from school arrived.

**What should Lupe do? Would it make any difference if Lupe had been shoplifting with the others? Why or why not?**